

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Chairman, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes, Steve Mc Corkle, Mary Ann Beard, Auditor and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance.

Chairman Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved with a correction that Travis Edwards represents Motorola on a motion by Marvin Hedrick and seconded by Charles Smith. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Kim Roe environmentalist from the Health Department distributed copies of the 2015 Rush County Health Assessment.

RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Verlin Custer presented the annual report for the Raleigh Volunteer Fire Department. Custer pointed out that the department answered 133 ambulance runs in 2013 and 91 in 2024. A new fire truck has been ordered with the expected delivery in June.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported that the inmate count is at 35 with 4 being DOC prisoners. Cowan informed that council that there is a bedbug infestation at the jail. It has cost \$2,000 for pest control and 55 new mattresses had to be purchased. Two hand-held and one walk through metal detector are being used by the courthouse security officers when required.

SALARY ORDINANCE

The amended salary ordinance approved at the February meeting was signed. The auditor reported that in preparing to pay the approved bonus for employees it was discovered that a separate ordinance was not allowed by state statute. This bonus must be included in the salary ordinance and elected officials salary cannot be altered once set by the council. After discussion Charles Smith moved to amend the salary ordinance to allow the employees to be paid the bonus in June and December and to pay the elected officials in one payment in January 2016 once included in the 2016 salary ordinance. Marvin Hedrick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

An additional appropriation for the purchase of the Rush/Shelby Energy building in the amount of \$175,000 in the Riverboat fund was approved on a motion by Marvin Hedrick. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Charles Smith abstained.

Charles Smith moved to approve an additional appropriation of \$31,000 in the 911 fund for the purpose of upgrading the jail antenna. Steve McCorkle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EDIT TRANSFERS

The Auditor informed the board that there will be transfers made in the Edit fund to allow the payment of \$15,000 for lobbying fees for legislation required to build a new jail: \$8,000 for the counties' contribution to the Revolving Loan Fund; and \$26,000 requested to resolve the drainage pond issue at Blue Ribbon Estates.

Studying the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Commissioners on construction of a pond to resolve the drainage issue, several issues were discussed. Scott Barnes moved that an amount not to exceed \$21,000 for construction and \$5,000 in access fees be allowed once the following issues are resolved: is a pond necessary; the tree line on the Westside of the property needs to be cleared; what is the property owner's obligation; who and how will a pond be maintained; if a legal drain is used for maintenance, no one in the watershed should be exempt from fees. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PIONEER ABATEMENT

The auditor shared information on the Pioneer abatement approved for taxes payable in 2015. Real estate taxes were abated \$13,543.58. Personal property taxes were abated \$14,483.44 and the assessed value declined \$1,193,230.00. The total assessed value for the added project was \$5,311,400.00.

CUMLATIVE CAPITAL FUND

The Cum Cap rate must be re-established for the 2016 budget. Janet Kile made the motion to proceed with a rate of .0333 as allowed in IC 36-9-14.5-6. The current rate is .0170 and the 2014 revenue was \$155,028.82. The increase would allow the County Bridge Inspection of approximately \$233,000 over four years to be paid from this fund. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Scott Barnes reported that the committee studying the composition of the APC is meeting on March 24th.
- Marvin Hedrick shared that the insurance committee met recently and concluded that all employees who wish to take part in the county's insurance plan must have a health screening. Rush Memorial Hospital will conduct our screening in June.
- Gerald Mohr stated that negotiations continue with NextEra Wind Energy but Apex Wind has not accepted the county's terms.

Steve McCorkle moved to adjourn. Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion car

s/ Gerald Mohr
/Gerald Mohr, Chairman

/s/ Warren Norris
Warren Norris

/s/ Charles Smith
Charles Smith

/s/ Janet Kile
Janet Kile

/s/ Marvin Hedrick
Marvin Hedrick

/s/ Scott Barnes
Scott Barnes

/s/ Steve McCorkle
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor